

DISCLAIMER

This electronic version of an SCC order is for informational purposes only and is not an official document of the Commission. An official copy may be obtained from the [Clerk of the Commission, Document Control Center](#).

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

At Richmond, NOVEMBER 24, 1998

PETITION OF

VIRGINIA COMMITTEE FOR FAIR UTILITY
RATES, OLD DOMINION COMMITTEE FOR
FAIR UTILITY RATES, AND THE VIRGINIA
INDUSTRIAL GAS USERS' ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. PUE980788

To institute a formal investigation
for the purpose of determining all
matters concerning the Year 2000
compliance of Virginia Electric and
Power Company, Appalachian Power
Company, Columbia Gas of Virginia,
and Virginia Natural Gas, Inc.

ORDER PERMITTING RESPONSES TO PETITION

On November 10, 1998, the Virginia Committee for Fair Utility Rates, the Old Dominion Committee for Fair Utility Rates, and the Virginia Industrial Gas Users' Association (collectively, "Petitioners") filed a petition ("November 10 Petition") to institute a formal investigation for the purpose of determining all matters concerning the Year 2000 compliance of Virginia Power and Electric Company, Appalachian Power Company, Columbia Gas Company of Virginia, Inc., and Virginia Natural Gas, Inc. (collectively, "Virginia utilities"). Petitioners state that in the daily operation of their businesses, they depend on the reliable and consistent provision of services by Virginia's electric and gas utilities. Petitioners state that the computers and related equipment of Virginia utilities are potentially subject to Year 2000 conversion

problems, and that they believe that it is imperative that Virginia utilities become Year 2000 compliant as soon as possible to assure a continuous and reliable supply of energy. Therefore, Petitioners request that the Commission institute a formal investigation that will provide greater assurance that any potential Year 2000 problems are identified and corrected prior to the January 1, 2000 deadline. Further, Petitioners request that the Commission direct electric and gas utilities to certify that they have inventoried their equipment, identified potential problems, develop action plans to address any identified problems and contingency plans for dealing with emergencies, and make progress reports. Petitioners also request that Virginia utilities be required to certify that they have obtained adequate assurances from their suppliers that the suppliers will become Year 2000 compliant and develop contingency plans for dealing with emergencies.

In support of their request, Petitioners state that certain state public commissions have established formal investigations of Year 2000 readiness and preparation, and that numerous state legislatures have passed legislation concerning Year 2000 conversion. Additionally, Petitioners state that earlier this year, Congress passed the “Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act,” which provides limited liability protections to businesses for sharing Year 2000 information.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the foregoing, is of the opinion and finds that Commission Staff and any interested parties should be provided an opportunity to file comments on the November 10 Petition, and Petitioners should be provided an opportunity to file a reply to any comments that may be filed. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) Staff and parties may file comments regarding the November 10 Motion on or before December 9, 1998.

(2) Petitioners may file a reply to any comments concerning the November 10 Petition on or before December 15, 1998.